



OFFICE OF THE  
WATER POLLUTION  
CONTROL AUTHORITY

# TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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## MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CALL September 24, 2020

### Attendees:

Gordon Gibson, Carina Hart, and Andrew Tedford. Also present: Robert I. Grasis, Director, Water Pollution Control; Steve Boske, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; Heatheryn Leduke, Financial Analyst; Mike Becker, Tighe & Bond and Lori Carriero, Tighe & Bond

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:30 p.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### MINUTES OF THE WPCA VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON AUGUST 13, 2020 AND MINUTES OF THE WPCA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CALL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 13, 2020

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Gibson made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the August 13, 2020 Virtual Public Hearing as presented/amended. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (3-0-0). Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Gibson made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the August 13, 2020 Conference Call Meeting as presented/amended. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

### UPDATE ON TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Mr. Becker updated the Authority relative to the upgrade. He reported that between 35 – 45 tradesmen are working at the treatment facility on a daily basis. He provided details regarding work on the double disc pumps in the preliminary treatment building; aeration tanks #1 and #2; secondary clarifiers #4 and #5; filter building; chlorine contact chambers/UV channels; solids building; and the dirty water storage tank. Mr. Becker said that the project schedule is 36% complete.

### UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF THE SEWER SYSTEM EVALUATION SURVEY

Regarding the SSE Survey, Ms. Carriero reported that the smoke testing is complete and she will follow up with the contractor regarding the field reports; CCTV is also complete and the data will be reviewed shortly; and sewer manhole inspections should be completed by the end of the month. The final portion of the survey is on hold until a substantial rain event occurs, so that large flows in the system can be evaluated. Ms. Carriero said that she hopes to have a draft report for review by the end of the year. Relative to the Route 66/67 Sewer Feasibility study, she reported that soil boring work is complete. Mr. Grasis reported that the Town of Tolland is interested in extending the sewers in that area, but Tolland is waiting for a draft layout and capital estimates.

### PLANT SUMMARY

Mr. Boske said that the plant is running well. Also, BOD removal is 99%; nitrogen removal has improved; there is more chlorine in use than last year at this time; and natural gas and kilowatt hours were down from last year at this time. Regarding current activities, Mr. Grasis reported that electrical upgrades are complete at the Tankeroosen and Campbell Avenue pump stations. Discussion took place relative to the power fluctuations at those stations. Also, the Plant Foreman position is still open; the last chlorine disinfection will take place this month because the new UV system should be up and running by the spring; the draft permit has not yet been received from DEEP; and online training classes will be utilized for the operators. Mr. Grasis also reported that a reimbursement of \$33,000 was received from the state that included 19 manhole resets, brickwork and traffic control on Lake Street. The Sewer Department only had to spend \$9,000 for new frames and covers. The total for the project, without reimbursement, would have been \$42,000. Mr. Grasis asked the Authority for permission to pursue the investigation of sewers on Maple Avenue and Pearl Drive. It was the consensus of the Authority to grant permission to Mr. Grasis. Mr. Grasis said that he will update the Authority at the next meeting. Discussion took place.

### BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Ms. Leduke introduced herself and the Authority welcomed her to the Town of Vernon. Mr. Grasis informed the Authority that a small balance write off policy will be established through the Assistant Tax Collector for the WPCA. The write-off policy will be for any balance due under \$1.00. The Finance Officer agrees that a policy should be established, and adjustments will be documented and reviewed on a monthly basis he said.

### DISCUSSION OF EMERGENCY GENERATORS USED DURING STORM ISAIAS

Mr. Grasis provided background on this item and answered questions from the Authority. He referenced an Inspection Report, Emergency Purchase Requisition and Rental Generator Quote from Kraft Power. Discussion took place. Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Gibson made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority authorizes the Director of Water Pollution Control to approve payment as presented to Kraft Power Equipment, 199 Wildwood Avenue, Woburn, MA, in the amount of \$61,186.00 for the rental of, and services associated with, the use of emergency generators as a result of Storm Isaias in addition giving Mr. Grasis authorization to continue approving the rental costs per month moving forward. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

### ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

None.

### ADJOURN

Chairman Tedford, seconded by Vice-Chair Hart made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Yost  
Secretary, Water Pollution Control